

i thought it was a typo
hubby and i read and reread
out of 250 people i picked
your poems and i've
read them so often
i thought the poem had
something to do with women
not wanting the toilet
seat lid up
i thought it was about
your mother wanting
to call you
Rita Lyn

How To Tell

darkened rose canes
falling down rhododendron
cut what winter killed
when live buds are starting

after the yellow
forsythia bells,
slice the rose bushes

when black birds are
then prune cherries and
grapevines leaf

lettuce and spinach
peas radishes and cabbage
go in when there are
jonquils

Indians knew when
the oak leaves
are about the
size of a
mouse's ear,
plant the corn

-- Lyn Lifshin

Niskayuna NY

WR: 25, 31, 34, 37, 42, 44, 47ss,
50, 53, 55, 56, 59cb, 62, 65/66ss,
72, 73, 74, 77, 78ss, 80